

The Lowellville Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 in the Lowellville Library; President Jennifer Johnson presiding. Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Brian Wharry-Present
Stephanie Yon- Present
Gerald Dubos- Present
Jennifer Johnson- Present
Joseph Sturm – Present

(25-10-8790)

TREASURER’S CONSENT ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, approve the following items A-C by consent action:

A. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the September 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

B. Financial Reports

- a. Financial reports, list of bills and expenses paid, and payroll for the month ended September 2025

C. Donations

- a. \$585 donated by Joseph Donatelli to be used to purchase colored paint for the football field

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: (reported by Mr. Hammond)

1. Friday, October 10: We hosted a 5th/6th grade pregame tailgate and a high school 5th quarter post-game party. These events provided students with an opportunity to celebrate, play games, and spend time together in a fun, relaxed environment.
2. Tuesday & Wednesday, October 21–22: Third-grade students will take the Fall ELA Assessment, which measures reading, comprehension, and writing skills aligned to state standards. This assessment ensures students are on track for grade-level proficiency and meeting the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The test takes three hours, split across two sessions. It includes multiple-choice and short-answer questions assessing reading comprehension and vocabulary, as well as a writing task focused on opinion writing,

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where students must state an opinion and support it with evidence from provided texts. Students receive an overall score and subscores in three areas: Reading Informational Text, Reading Literary Text, and Writing (Opinion). Teachers use these scores to identify student strengths and needs, guide targeted instruction or interventions, and monitor growth throughout the year.

3. RISE Days -October 22 & 23: We will kick off our first RISE Days of the year focused on building community, fostering connections, and promoting inclusiveness. High school students will participate in a volleyball tournament, gaming room, or pumpkin decorating with paint or sharpies, while elementary students will enjoy pumpkin decorating, a bounce house maze, cider and donuts, crayon rubbings and painting on canvas. Thanks to the PTO for donating cider, donuts, and the bounce house.
4. Tuesday, October 29: The Student Council will host a Blood Drive for students and staff.
5. Thursday, October 31: Halloween celebrations include the annual Costume Contest, beginning at 8:30 AM, with prizes awarded for the best staff and senior costumes. The Elementary Halloween Parade will begin at 1:15 PM, with students marching around the track in their costumes. Parents are welcome to watch along the track or in the bleachers.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

1. Rocket Stars of the Month Recognition

Focus on recognizing students that demonstrate initiative, accountability, compassion, leadership qualities and outstanding attendance consistently at school. These are traits that make a real difference in our school community.

KG - Luciano Santoro & Presley Heitzenrater

1 - Theo Slaven & Cason Calderon

2 - Antonio Donatelli

3 - Abigail Anderson

4 - Patrick Durkin

5 - Ryan Durkin

6 - Lilliana Sesser

7 - Roland Swanson

8 - Alison Eskins

12 - Kaden Primous

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. **October is National Principals Month-** On behalf of the Lowellville School District, we proudly recognize Mrs. Parry and Mr. Hammond for their leadership and service. Their dedication to academic excellence, student success, and the well-being of our entire school community is evident in all that they do. Through their vision, compassion, and commitment, they continue to create a positive learning environment where students and staff can thrive. We are grateful for their tireless efforts and the meaningful impact they have on our district each and every day.
2. **Veterans Day Assembly-** Save the Date for our annual Veterans Day Assembly. The assembly will be held in the morning on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Additional details will be shared soon.
3. **Vision Van-** The district extends its sincere appreciation to Vision to Learn, Sight for All United, and the United Way of the Mahoning Valley for their partnership in providing free vision screenings to all K–12 students and comprehensive eye exams for those in need.

Through this initiative, every student who elected to participate and requires corrective lenses will also receive prescription glasses at no cost. We are grateful for the continued support of these organizations in helping to ensure that all students have the resources they need to learn and thrive — another example of our commitment to supporting the whole child.

4. **Mahoning County Juvenile Court Early Warning System (EWS)-** Regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success, and reducing absenteeism is a top priority for our district. To support students and families, we are partnering with the Mahoning County Juvenile Court through its Early Warning System (EWS). This program helps students stay on track by addressing attendance concerns early and providing support when needed.

Key information about the program:

Students with more than 45 hours of unexcused absences by December may have an on-site EWS Review Hearing with a traveling Juvenile Court Magistrate at their school.

Students with more than 72 hours of unexcused absences may be scheduled for a hearing at Juvenile Court.

Both excused and unexcused absences count toward chronic absenteeism. Students with a significant number of excused absences may be contacted by a court official, who works with the EWS to provide support and guidance to families before court involvement.

Parents/guardians are required to attend all hearings. Formal charges may be filed if attendance does not improve.

Below, you will find a letter from the Mahoning County Juvenile Court with additional details about the EWS program. Please take a moment to review it and understand how this program works to support your child.

MISSION

If you have questions or need support, do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you for your partnership in helping all students attend school regularly.



**THE MAHONING COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE COURT DIVISION**

HONORABLE JUDGE THERESA DELICK, PRESIDING
JOSEPH NOHRA, COURT ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE HEPHNER, BAILIFF

LISA MASTORIS
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

RON CHAMBERS
JUSTICE CENTER ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Families,

Regular school attendance is a critical component to student success as it directly relates to academic, social, and emotional development. The Mahoning County Juvenile Court's Early Warning System (EWS) is currently in place to assist students who struggle with attendance, behavior, and/or grades. Under EWS, Court officials, in collaboration with family members, school officials, and community agencies, create individualized plans to provide struggling students opportunities to become more successful in and out of school. Since its inception, EWS has made a positive impact on the overall attendance, behavior, and academic achievement of many students.

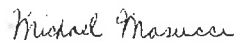
Unfortunately, despite EWS efforts, some students still struggle with attendance. This past May, school leaders from across Mahoning County met with the Juvenile Court EWS Team to discuss additional ways the Court can assist schools that continue to deal with poor attendance.

During the meeting, the Court unveiled an EWS Review Hearing that will begin at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Under this new program, Magistrate Gina DeGenova will travel to each partnering District to conduct hearings. These on-site hearings will occur if a student accumulates more than forty-five (45) hours of unexcused absences by December. A student who accumulates more than seventy-two (72) hours of unexcused absences will be scheduled for an EWS hearing at Juvenile Court. Parents/Guardians will be required to attend all meetings. Formal charges may be filed if attendance does not improve.

We are confident this new program will help keep students and their families enrolled and engaged in school.

Sincerely,


Judge Theresa Dellick


Michael Masucci
EWS Director

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Baseball Field Complex- Termination Agreement Discussion

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- Ms. Apisa reported that the termination paperwork is ready to execute. However, before doing so, there needs to be further communication regarding the logistics of taking care of the property (what are the current responsibilities of the village, liability, man power, etc).
- A building and grounds board committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the above needs and logistics further. Representatives from the Village Council will be invited so that they can provide additional information regarding the Village's current responsibilities, costs, etc.
- Mr. Wharry asked what the Lowellville Baseball Association will need to do in order to continue using the facilities. Ms. Apisa commented that all of the details will need to be ironed out before the termination papers are signed.

2. Athletic Trainer

- Mrs. Yon asked if the district has been able to find anyone to fill the role of an athletic trainer yet.
- Mrs. Sawicki stated that they have not. The district has reached out to Akron Children's and Mercy Health and they do not have any athletic trainers to fill the role.
- Mr. Dubos asked if the district could hire someone part time or as needed, similar to some of the athletic event staff. Mrs. Sawicki stated that the district could do so but they have not had anyone express interest. Mr. Dubos was asked to share contact information with Mrs. Sawicki if he knows of someone who may be interested in filling such a role.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Public comment on agenda items or other school related issues.

No comments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. At the discretion of the Board President, the time limit may be extended to five minutes. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of calling the Board office to request to be placed on the regular agenda at the Superintendent's discretion. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

(25-10-8791)

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following items A- C by consent action:

A. Personnel

1. Classified Staff Appointments

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- a. It is recommended that the Board retroactively approve **Brett Bessell as a Custodial Aide “As Needed”** for the 2025-2026 school year. Brett will be placed at step 0 on the Classified Agreement and the hourly compensation will be \$11.66. Brett’s first day of employment as a custodial aide was October 8, 2025.

2. Substitute Nurse Appointments

- a. Susan Shuluga, 2025-2026 School Year- \$18.31 per hour

3. Athletic Supplementals Appointments- 2025-2026 School Year

Provided they meet the requirements, prior to working with students, set forth by the Lowellville Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Ohio Department of Education:

- a. Vinny Ballone- Basketball- Boys 8th- 8%
- b. Frank Bedenik Basketball- Boys 7th- 8%

B. Building Use

- a. **Challenge 24 Practice** (Debbi Sanders)- Practice Sessions- October 14th - March 19th (one - two days a week) -2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Room 5
- b. **Birthday Party** (Linda Chuppa Williams)- Birthday Party- October 11th- 1:00-4:00 p.m. Outdoor Pavilion
- c. **Taekwon Kids Program** (Jeff Hammond)- Taekwon Kids Program- Grades 3-6- November 3, 5, 10, 12 2:45 -4:00 p.m. - Small gym or Cafeteria
- d. **PTO Cookie & Paint Party** (Amber Hejduk)- Cookie & Paint Party- November 14, 2025-5:00-8:30 p.m.- Cafeteria
- e. **Tabletop Gaming Club** (Jared Hale)- Tabletop Gaming Club- Fridays (when school is in session) - 2:50 - 6:00 p.m.- Room 231
- f. **Youth Basketball Practice** (Dana Donatelli)- Youth Basketball Practice Grades 3-6- Saturdays (when gyms are available -November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, December 6, 12, 21, and 27, and January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31st- 12:00-2:00 p.m.

C. Leave of Absence

- a. Rena Firmstone- Effective October 27, 2025 - February 27, 2026 (as needed)

Moved by Stephanie Yon, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(25-10-8792)

1. It is recommended that the Board approve the following supplemental for the **2025-2026** school year and placed at the appropriate percentage on the Master Contract provided he meets the requirements, prior to working with students, set forth by the Lowellville Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:

- a. Adam Kawecki- Baseball- Varsity- 12%

Moved by Jennifer Johnson, seconded by Brian Wharry.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8793)

2. It is recommended that the Board approve the following supplemental for the **2025-2026** school year and placed at the appropriate percentage on the Master Contract provided he meets the requirements, prior to working with students, set forth by the Lowellville Board of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:

- a. Michael Alfano- Softball- Varsity- 12%

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Stephanie Yon.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8794)

3. It is recommended that the Board approve Mr. Jeff Hammond as an approved evaluator for the 2025-2026 school year for school counselors (OSCES) employed by Lowellville Local Schools. He has completed all of the necessary training required by the state and secured the necessary certificates.

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8795)

4. It is recommended that the Board rescind the previously approved resolution to provide payment in lieu of transportation to Ursuline High School for Brody Daniels for the 2025-2026 school year.

RESOLUTION TO RESCIND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2025, the Lowellville Board of Education adopted a resolution declaring transportation impractical and authorizing payment in lieu of transportation in the amount of \$607.15 for student Brody Daniels to attend Ursuline High School for the 2025-2026 school year; and

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WHEREAS, the determination at that time was based on the student's enrollment at Ursuline High School, a nonpublic school; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2025, the student, Brody Daniels, enrolled in Lowellville Schools and is no longer attending a nonpublic school requiring transportation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this enrollment change, the conditions under which the Board originally authorized payment in lieu of transportation no longer exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lowellville Board of Education hereby rescinds the resolution adopted on August 20, 2025, authorizing payment in lieu of transportation for Brody Daniels for the 2025-2026 school year.

Adopted this 15th day of October, 2025.

Moved by Joe Sturm, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8796)

5. It is recommended that the Board approve the estimate (as submitted) from JCs Landscaping and the Tree Dudes to continue providing snow and ice removal services for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Jennifer Johnson.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8797)

6. It is recommended that the Board approve a retainer (as submitted) with David Grossman & Associates PLLC in regards to the Social Media AdolescentAddiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation (MDLNo. 304) and Video Game Addiction matters.

Moved by Jerry Dubos, seconded by Joe Sturm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

(25-10-8798)

7. Adjournment:

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Jennifer Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm.

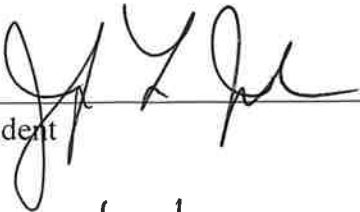
ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson - Sturm
Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

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President

Date 11/19/25



Treasurer

Date 11/19/25

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